Becoming People of Hope

This presentation offers practical proposals for ongoing formation within ecclesial movements and associations, with the aim of fostering hope among their members in the Jubilee Year and beyond. It suggests that effective formation must be dynamic and responsive, and deeply integrated into the lived experience of women and men. The ecclesial movements and associations with their inherent diversity require a dynamic, contextualized approach to formation.

Hope begins with the transformative power of encountering the Risen Lord, as vividly captured by Caravaggio's *Supper at Emmaus*, where the disciples' wide-open eyes and ears signify their profound recognition of Christ that energizes them to share hope with others. This image establishes a direct link between personal spiritual transformation and outward witness, presenting mission as an overflow of a deeply personal, energizing encounter with the Risen Lord.

This presentation re-examines the four traditional pillars of formation — human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral —through the lens of kindling hope amidst complex contemporary challenges. *Human Formation* focuses on helping each person to flourish by providing an ecosystem that encourages self-knowledge, self-possession, and self-gift. It fosters the cultivation of virtue and and advocates for a realistic, rather than idealized perspectives of others, especially leaders. *Spiritual Formation* centres on deepening one's relationship with God and others through attentive listening and discernment. Three types of listening are emphasized: listening "with the ear of the heart" to all of Sacred Scripture, listening to the "joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties" of the world (especially the poor), and listening in a synodal style within the Church. The inclusion of listening to the world's suffering elevates spiritual formation beyond purely personal piety to an active engagement with social realities, making spirituality inherently mission oriented and transformative. *Intellectual Formation* deepens faith understanding and appreciates culture's role in fostering hope. It is essential for lay women and men to articulate their faith amidst complex global issues, necessitating a deep knowledge of the Church's social teaching. The arts-- poetry, music, literature, film-- are also not to be underestimated, as Pope Francis asserts art is "not a luxury, but something that the spirit needs," a "call to action" that engages with the "drama of existence". *Apostolic or pastoral formation* for mission prepares members of associations and ecclesial movements for courageous outreach and evangelization. Central to this is the call to be missionary disciples who courageously reach out and offer hope to those on the margins of society. These four pillars are intricately intertwined: human formation provides stability for spiritual engagement, which guides intellectual inquiry and informs apostolic action.

The Jubilee Year is a pivotal moment for recalibration, renewal, and recommitment to foster hope as missionary discipleship. It is a strategic opportunity for movements and associations to fan into flame the gifts that have been given over the years. Hope is not passive but must be organized—made concrete in our everyday lives, in our relationships, in our social and political commitments, especially through actions for the poor and marginalized.